

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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FODAG

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: AORG, EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET 1978/79

REFS: (A) STATE 91895, (B) STATE 93112, (C) ROME 6461

FOR AMBASSADOR GARDNER FROM MAYNES

1. APPRECIATE LUCID PRESENTATION YOU GAVE SAOUMA OF OUR
POSITIONS ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND UNDP.

2. SAOUMA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM IS NOT SURPRISING BUT HE IS NOT CORRECT IN
INDICATING THAT OUR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUATION
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TCP UAS NOT EARLIER EXPRESSED TO HIM. I MYSELF DISCUSSED
THIS DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. IN ADDITION, I STRESSED
GREAT DIFFICULTY U.S. WOULD HAVE WITH 23.8 PERCENT
BUDGET INCREASE NEXT BIENNIUM AFTER 58 PERCENT INCREASE
1976-77. THIS POINT WAS REINFORCED BY HATHAWAY AT AGRI-
CULTURE. NEVERTHELESS, WE NOW KNOW WHERE SAOUMA STANDS,
I.E., HE REGARDS TCP, WHICH SET UP AS EXPERIMENT, AS

PERMANENT LONG RANGE FEATURE. WE CAN NOT ACCEPT THIS.

3. CONCERNING NORRED-BYRNES TELCON, REGRET SAOUMA WAS NOT ADVISED U.S. WOULD SUPPORT HIS BUDGET LEVEL IF WAY

TO REMOVE TCP COULD BE FOUND (REF A). IF THIS IS CONVEYED HIM AND HE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE SIGNIFICANT U.S. CONCESSION IN AGREEING TO THIS LARGE BUDGET INCREASE, THEN THE LINES ARE CLEARLY DRAWN AND IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT WE WILL OPPOSE HIS BUDGET--A SITUATION WHICH WE HAVE THOUGHT SAOUMA WOULD WISH TO AVOID AT ALMOST ANY COST.

4. MOST OTHER PROPOSALS IN REF A, AS YOU NOTE, ARE LESS IMPORTANT BUT EMERGENCY FUND, WILLINGNESS TO RE-PROGRAM RESOURCES FREED BY ABOLISHING TCP, AND OVERHEAD PAYMENTS SHOULD NOT BE TREATED LIGHTLY. THE FIRST TWO WOULD BE MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO SAOUMA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET LEVEL. MOREOVER, RETAINING 14 PERCENT FOR OVERHEAD COST REIMBURSEMENT IS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN. ADG WEST WAS MUCH EXERCISED ABOUT THIS AND NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC UNDP WOULD MAINTAIN PRESENT RATE. WE BELIEVE WE CAN HELP.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE THINK THE U.S. POSITION WHEN ELABORATED IN YOUR NEXT CONVERSATION SHOULD BE SEEN AS FORTHCOMING. WHILE IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT GAIN ACCEPTANCE IF THE DG IS DETERMINED TO ARGUE AGAINST US IN COUNCIL DEBATE, WE THINK MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD TRY HARD TO SUPPORT U.S. VIEWS AND QUESTION WHETHER ALL LDC'S WOULD FIND THEM OBJECTIONABLE.

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6. WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE BUDGET LEVEL, INCLUDING TCP, VOTED OVER OUR OBJECTION BUT SEE NO ALTERNATIVE TO MOVING AHEAD TO OBTAIN SUPPORT AMONG THE MAJOR DONORS IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME GIVE FROM THE DG. IF DG UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE NOW, DESPITE OUR COOPERATION ON RELATED ISSUES, THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE OF OBTAINING HIS CONCURRENCE TO END THE TCP AFTER A FURTHER TWO YEARS.

7. YOU ARE IN BEST POSITION TO JUDGE WHETHER TO INFORM DG IMMEDIATELY OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT DOLLARS 206.8 MILLION LEVEL, EMERGENCY ALLOCATION AND RE-PROGRAMING OF RESOURCES UPON REMOVAL OF TCP (REF A) BUT WE THINK THIS IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION WOULD BE BEST UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES. IF HE REMAINS UNWILLING TO REMOVE TCP THEN WE HAVE BEEN FAIR IN GIVING HIM FULL PROPOSAL BEFORE APPROACHING MAJOR DONORS AS YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO FRIDAY WITH THE GG DRAWING AS YOU FEEL APPROPRIATE ON REFS A AND 0 AND THIS MESSAGE. TO WAIT UNTIL MAY 2

BEFORE GIVING SAOUMA AT LEAST AN INDICATION OF UHAT WE
ARE WILLING TO OFFER, AND THEN MOUNTING GG EFFORTS
AGAINST HIM IN INTERIM, IS CERTAIN TO INFURIATE HIM AND
OE REGARDED AS ACT OF BAD FAIT;.
VANCE

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